

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dear Senator Byrd:

Thank you for sending us letter suggesting that we use "Russian grain" to help feed the Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The inflow of refugees from Afghanistan has placed a severe strain on Pakistan's resources. The United States is providing \$5.3 million worth of food to the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees for the Afghan refugee program. We hope to provide additional food aid.

The UNHCR estimates that its program for 1980 will cost \$55 million based upon a total of 500,000 refugees. We plan to contribute about one-third of the costs of the UNHCR program, much of it in food aid.

Sincerely,

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

The Honorable
Robert C. Byrd,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC, 12

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